

Trustom Pond

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D)
Rep. James R. Langevin (D-2nd)

Contact

Charlie Vandemoer, Refuge Manager
Rhode Island National Wildlife
Refuge Complex
50 Bend Road
Charlestown, RI 02813-2503
Phone: 401/364 9124, ext. 11
Fax: 401/364 0170
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: charlie_vandemoer@fws.gov

Profile

Established:	1973
Complex acres:	2,574
Trustom acres:	777
Staff (complex-wide):	9 FTEs
*Salaries/operations	\$1,116,867
**One-time project funds	\$267,628
Fire	\$10,785
Fees	\$1,092
ARRA project funds	\$250,000
2010 volunteer hours:	3,790
2010 visitation:	70,100

*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

**Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

Purpose

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge was established as an inviolate sanctuary for migratory birds, and for incidental wildlife-oriented recreation, protection of natural resources, and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

Visitor Services

- Two observation platforms
- Three miles of nature trails
- Visitor contact station
- Guided walks/tours
- Wildlife/nature photography

- Goose hunting
- Surf fishing (seasonal)
- Designated law enforcement officer shared with Connecticut refuges

Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Land protection plan targets 1,004 acres for land acquisition
- Grassland/shrubland restoration
- Prescribed burning program
- Monitoring wildlife and habitat
- Controlling invasive exotic species
- Protecting the federally listed threatened piping plover

Highlights

Trustom Pond is home to over 275 bird species, 40 species of mammals and 20 amphibian species.

The refuge has the statewide lead for the piping plover restoration program, which is funded through a cooperative state wildlife grant. In 2010, refuge staff managed a record 71 pairs of piping plovers.

The refuge, with Ducks Unlimited, NRCS, adjacent landowners and the Coastal Program, funds wetland restoration on 40 acres, on and off the refuge.

The refuge has active *Phragmites* and mute swan control programs.

Trustom Pond is the only undeveloped salt pond in Rhode Island. In 2008, staff initiated an in-depth ecology evaluation.

Environmental education program for school-aged children expanded with the opening of the Kettle Pond Visitor Center.



Piping plover

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Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Water quality is affected by multiple landowners

Increasing public use and demands on limited staff

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use area (Moonstone Beach)

Managing incompatible public uses on Moonstone Beach

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
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